



# It Grinds Their Gears



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## Chapter 1 by Raging Wolf

The sound of clanking, shrieking, grinding metal pierced the silence of the night. The sound of branches breaking, thick brush being shoved aside. The men inside those powerful machines oblivious to the things outside.

There's a war on. But this is different. The men aren't human. They aren't alien, either, and they also aren't robots. The men ARE the machines.

"Black Dragon 2 to Black Dragon Lead."

"Go ahead."

"I'm getting a strange reading on my short range LIDAR; are you getting anything?"

"Negative, I don't detect anything."

Hundreds of feet below the tracks of those monsters of war, a small village lay buried under the soil and rock tossed about by the weapons of the Nuclear War of 2018. Earth is vastly different now. It still has vegetation, oxygen, all the animals from the previous century, humans still thriving, and cities don't cover the entire planet.

But war has taken its toll. The machines grind onward, barrels of guns pointed forward, shells loaded, sensors on full power. The powerful nation of Kyrgyzstan was about to face a vengeful foe bent on restoring the balance.

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"Black Dragon Lead to all"

"Volcano!"

## Chapter 2 by Joe Ro



And then all hell broke loose. Swoosh!!!!

"What the hell was that"

A green, glowing orb just missed Black Dragon Lead.

It came out of the east, we just patrolled there, voices crackled over the intercom, "right! pivot right!!"

Just then the LIDAR picked it up again, then it was gone. It came up from the earth. A rail gun burried years before, part of a doomsday system. Not active till day's, months, sometimes years after the first attack, and now they are attacking those that planted them, luckily this one just missed, the guidance system must be off by a degree.

They knew, but how did they know we were coming....

"All stop, silence" nothing, they heard nothing.

the digital on the control panel continued to tick off the seconds.

"All units, restart engines", then came the voice again "LIDAR is picking a blip"

Vibrations ! thats what they are picking up. Now how to extract ourselves without setting them off again.

"Lead?" -"Copy"

"What if it's not vibrations, but randon scanning?"

" You feeling lucky? go ahead kid, show us what you got"

BD 3 fired up and started to roll out.

This is insane, AI mechines, hunting AI mechines, humans having no control. Once set in motion they have become bystanders in thier own world that the mechines they built now control...

**Write a draft for chapter 3 of 8** (1 draft)

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